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IX.-XV. From the Trias, Bassani describes eleven species, representing eight genera, and five families.

The most important memoir of the volume is that of Vinassa de Regny, "Synopsis dei molluschi terziari delle Alpi venete, Parte prima; Strati con Velates Schmiedeliana," pp. 210-275, Plates XVI., XVIII. Heretofore papers on Italian Tertiary geology have been badly scattered and hard to get at, but de Regny's memoir will help to remove this difficulty by republishing in accessible form many obscure figures and descriptions.

All the papers in Volume I. of the *Palæontographia Italica* are well indexed, and have copious bibliographic lists appended, an example that other palæontological publications might well follow. J. P. S.

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*The Soil; its Nature, Relations, and Fundamental Principles of Management.* Pp. xv.+303, illustrated. By F. H. KING. New York, 1895.

This little book was written for students of agriculture, but it contains so much of interest to students of geology that we give it room here.

The distinctly geological matter in the volume is well chosen, and the geological illustrations are all helpful and to the point. The following topics are of especial interest to geologists: origin of soils, methods of rock disintegration, sediments moved by streams, work of rain, composition of soils, nitrogen of the soil, capillarity, solution and osmosis, soil water, distribution of roots in the soil, relations of air to soil.

One of the commendable virtues of the book is the simplicity of the writer's style: complex problems of chemistry, physics, geology, and botany are all dealt with in the simplest manner possible. There is no laborious argumentation to bewilder the new student. The occasional dropping into poetry will strike the critical as rather overdoing the matter perhaps, but there is nothing to detract from the dignity of the subject under consideration.

It is to be hoped that the author of this valuable little book will soon give the world the benefit of his more technical knowledge of the physics and chemistry of soils expressed in his clear, easy style, and accompanied with the references needed by advance students and investigators.

Aside from the value such a work may have for agriculture, it will aid geologists to understand the work of water and acids in the alteration of minerals and rocks, the agencies of rock decomposition and the formation and modification of many ore deposits. J. C. B.